

## IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the paragraph at page 6, lines 2-14, to read as follows:

The present inventors have discovered, quite surprisingly, that an RNase inhibitor protein from a mammalian source (human placenta, rat, etc., native or recombinant) can be combined with particular chemical conditions, such that the combination allows the inhibitor to be highly effective in specific, high-temperature applications, such as RT-PCR and quantitative RT-PCR. ~~(Joe: these particular chemical reagents, i.e., DTT are no longer required--heat alone will work)~~: In particular when heat is added to the RNA inhibitor solution combined with a sample suspected of containing RNase, this results not only in the inhibition of RNase in the reaction, but also results in the lack of release of active RNase following treatment of the solution under conditions that inactivate the RNase inhibitor. Insofar as the literature discussed previously directly indicates that RNase inhibitor solutions should not be heated under any conditions (as they will inactivate the RNase inhibitor and potentially release active RNase into the experimental solution), the present invention is in direct conflict with the conventional fashion in which placental RNase inhibitor is used.